



FEMA

News Release

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THIS IS IT: LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR TROPICAL STORM IRENE DAMAGE

WESTFIELD, Mass. – For the past two months, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) have been reminding homeowners, renters and business owners in Berkshire and Franklin counties that the deadline to register for federal disaster assistance for Tropical Storm Irene damage and losses was quickly approaching.

That day – Wednesday, November 2, 2011 - has arrived. The FEMA registration lines and internet access pages will cease accepting applications as of 11:59 p.m.

“We hope that anyone with losses has registered in the past two months,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Mark H. Landry. “If, for some reason - waiting for an insurance settlement, for example – someone has put off applying, please do so immediately. Get your application into the system now. That way, you will be registered and eligible to receive any assistance you’re entitled to down the road.”

To register, call FEMA at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** before midnight tonight. Individuals with speech or hearing disabilities can call **1-800-462-7585**. Using the Internet, it’s www.disasterassistance.gov or, with a mobile device, enter m.fema.gov.

“Don’t be left without potential financial aid in your ongoing recovery from Irene’s impact,” said State Coordinating Officer Kurt Schwartz, Director of MEMA. “You’ve come this far. Register today. Don’t let tomorrow arrive and end up paying for losses out of your own pocket that very well could be eligible for disaster assistance.”

As of the close of business on Monday, October 31, 1,215 individuals and business owners in Berkshire and Franklin counties have registered for federal and state disaster assistance.

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FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.